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TRICKSTER
1 OF 4
HIROAKI SAMURA
BLADE
OF THE IMMORTAL
DIRECT SALES

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MANJI

Immortal *rōnin* vowed to protect Rin and aid her in her quest for revenge

RIN

Last heir of the Mutenichi *ryū dōjō* destroyed by the Itto-*ryū*

ANOTSU

The leader of the Itto-*ryū* sword school

MAGATSU

Formidable Itto-ryu swordsman

GILCHI

Mugai-*ryū* head collector

HABAKI KAGIMURA

Manipulative Mugai *ryū* leader serving the Shogun

THE STORY SO FAR

Infected by *kessenchu*, mystical bloodworms which can heal all wounds and grant their host immortality, Manji's bloodthirst led to the capture and murder of his sister. To atone for this and for the 100 innocent people who died at his hand while he served a corrupt lord, Manji vowed to slay 1,000 evil men in exchange for the release of death.

A surprise attack by the Mugai-*ryū* decimates a batch of new Itto-*ryū* recruits, and Anotsu rallies his surviving warriors to dish out swift vengeance. After a bloody, brief skirmish with Gilchi (Manji breaks apart Gilchi's infamous "headcatcher" weapon), Manji agrees to meet with the head of the Mugai-*ryū*, Habaki Kagimura.

designer DEBRA BAILEY editor PHILIP SIMON publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

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無限の住人

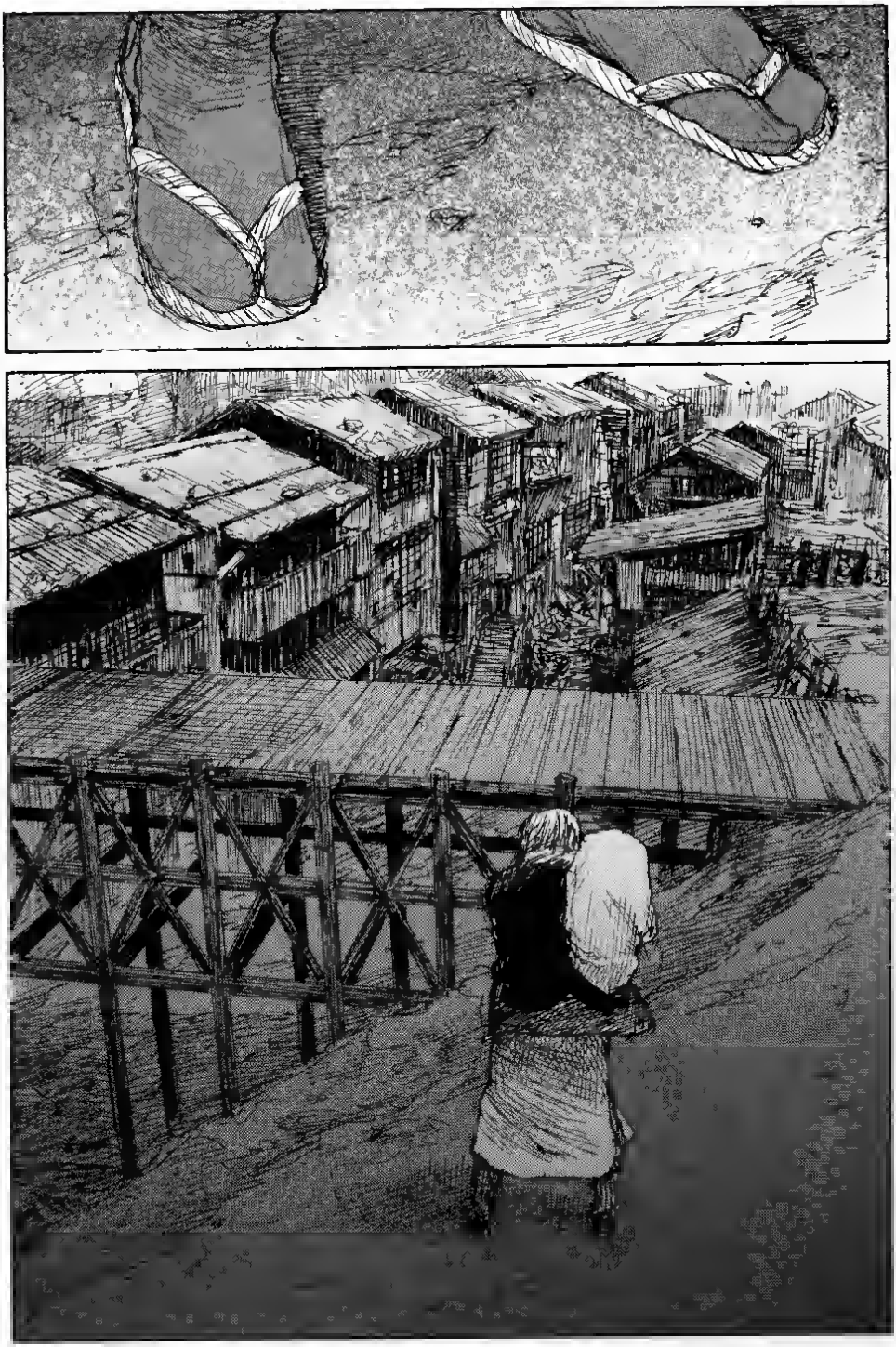
TRICKSTER

-part one-

"COME TO THE CENTRAL
BREAK STATION IN
ISHIOSHIGUN QUARRY.
-ITTŌ-RYŪ"

?!
WHAT IS IT...?
I GOT SOME WORK TO DO BEFORE WE HEAD OUT.
GIICHI. SORRY, MAN.
I'LL JOIN YOU.
...SO BE IT.

UNGH!
MNGH!

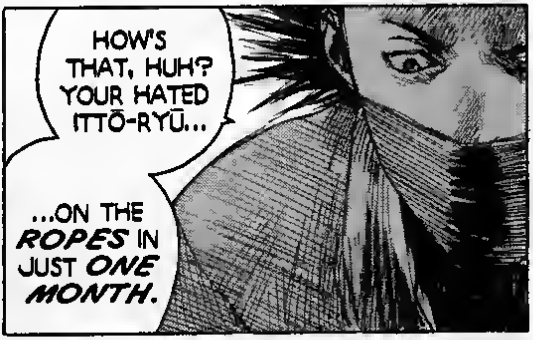


IT'S ME.

OWW!
AH...?
YOU...?

I'LL SAY THIS FIRST.
WE'RE NOT AFTER YOU.
BEHAVE, AND YOU'LL BE UNHARMED.
OUR BUSI-NESS...
...IS WITH YOUR MAN.
RIN.
WE'RE FIGHTING AN ENEMY LIKE NONE WE'VE EVER KNOWN.

INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.
DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME, ITTŌ-RYŪ COULD BE HISTORY.


HOW'S THAT, HUH? YOUR HATED ITTŌ-RYŪ...
...ON THE ROPES IN JUST ONE MONTH.

SO, REALLY...
...WE SHOULDN'T BE WASTING TIME MESSING AROUND WITH MANJI NOW. BUT FOR US, HOW DO I PUT THIS...
IT'S ABOUT...

... CLOSURE.

WITH *HIM* FOR A BODYGUARD, YOU'VE KILLED *TWENTY* OF OUR GUYS.
I'M NOT GOING THERE, NOT NOW. I *REMEMBER* WHAT WE DID TO YOU TWO YEARS AGO...

...BUT MANJI? IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
THE *BASTARD* WASTED SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS. WE GOTTA GET *CLEAR*.

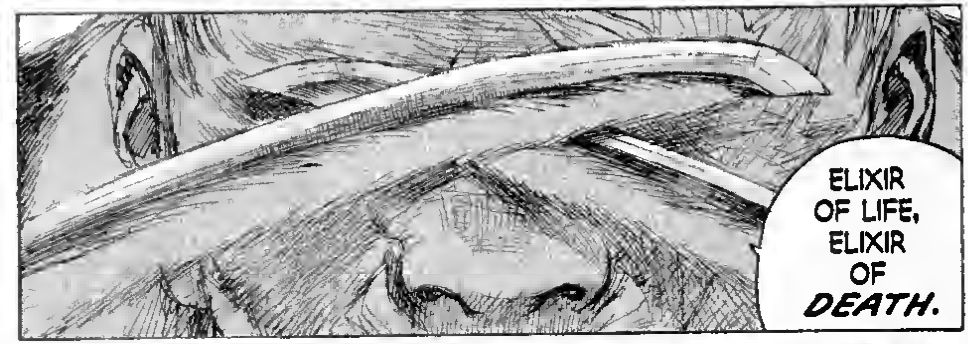
OR SO SAY...
...THE TWO GENTS OVER THERE.

KNOW WHAT THIS SUCKER IS?
...?
THIS LITTLE TOY?
IT'S A KINDA' POISON. FROM ONE O' THE GUYS YOU KILLED.
HE CALLED IT... KESSEN-SATSU.

!!
THAT--!
THAT CAN'T--!
.....
.....
.....
THERE WAS ONE O' THEM MONSTERS IN THE ITTŌ-RYU...?
FREAKIN' BLOWS MY MIND...
I'LL BE DAMN-ED...
GUESS IT'S FOR REAL... I DIDN'T BELIEVE...

I DUG IT OUT OF EIKŪ SHIZUMA'S OLD CRAP. REST HIS FREAKIN' SOUL.
GUESS YOU WON'T MIND IF WE USE IT.
WE'VE DILUTED IT A WEE BIT.
DON'T KNOW HOW POTENT IT IS, SEE? NOT MUCH FUN IF HE CROAKS ON THE FIRST CUT.
DON'T RESENT US, RIN. WE'RE NOT PLAYING DIRTY.
PLAYING DIRTY IS NOT DYING WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HACKED.

GLK
GLK
GLK
GLK


ELIXIR OF LIFE, ELIXIR OF DEATH.

khaf khaf..
KAH HAH HAH HAH!

SHIT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS RAGGEDY-ASS DUMP?
I DON'T GOT TIME, MAGATSU. ALL OF YOU TOGETHER!
SURE. IN A BIT...
DAMN.

EH?! WHO'S THAT BEHIND YOU?
AH?! NAW, HE'S--
ANOTHER LITTLE HELPER?
GETTING SOFT, AREN'T YOU?
THAT MAN...

YOU!
AREN'T YOU...
HABAKI KAGI-MURA'S--!!
FUCK!!
INDEED.
MY MASTER IS THE BANGASHIRA.
HABAKI KAGIMURA.

...YOU...
IT WAS YOU...!

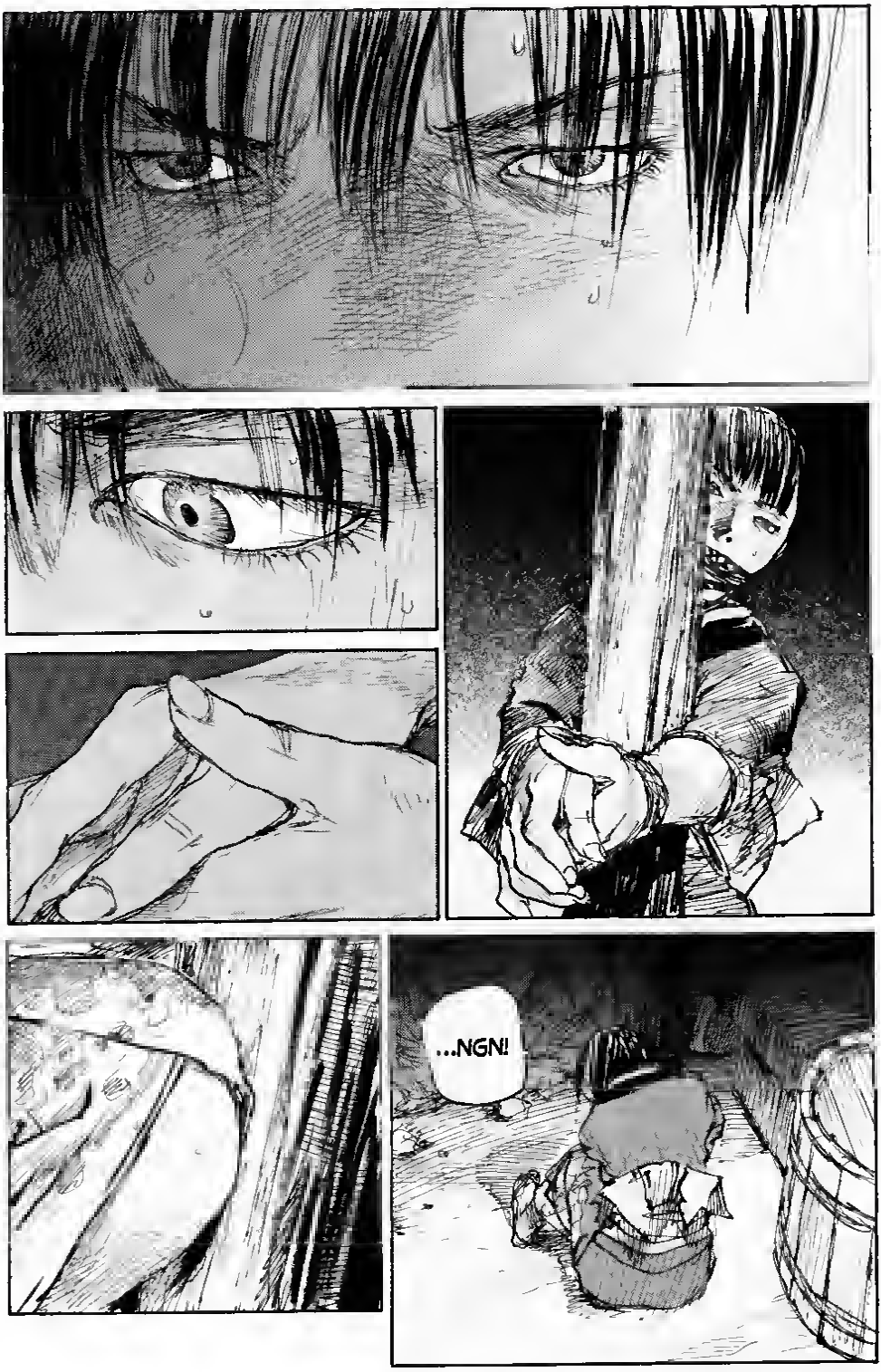
GREAT.
I DRAGGED ALONG A RIPE ONE.
I'M NOT A HELPER.
YOU INTER-RUPTED OUR TALK.
HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS...
...I'M WILLING TO OBLIGE.
.....
.....
.....

UHF...
KRRK
NGN...

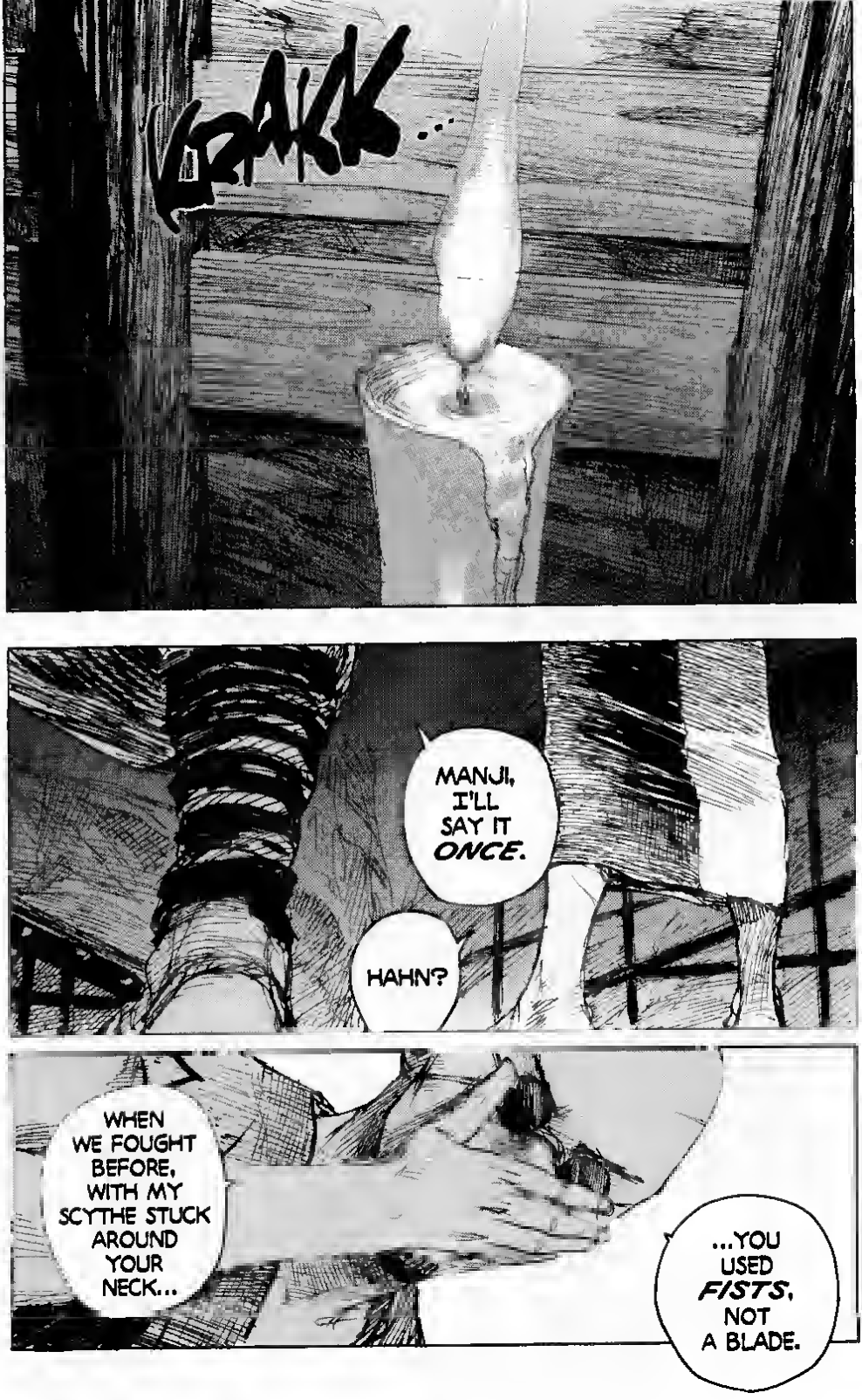
RIN! LISTEN... IF I DIE... DON'T...
...DON'T GO AFTER ANOTSU ALONE! FIND ANOTHER--

SHUT UP!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! I WON'T!

MANJI-- TAKE THESE.
UNGG...
-haff-
HNFF...
IT'S AN ANTI-DOTE I LEARNED ABOUT FROM MY MOTHER.
THEY'RE PILLS ROLLED FROM DOSEI-MOTSUKO AND RENGYŌ.
HNG...

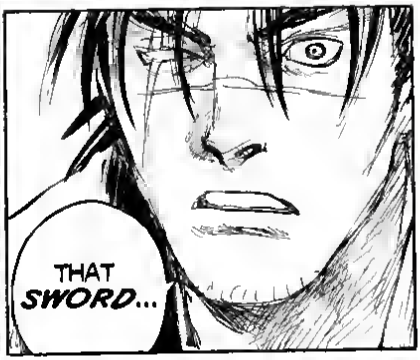

...NGN!

SKRK
KRK
KRK
AHG...!


KRAKK...
MANJI, I'LL SAY IT ONCE.
HAHN?
WHEN WE FOUGHT BEFORE, WITH MY SCYTHE STUCK AROUND YOUR NECK...
...YOU USED FISTS, NOT A BLADE.

...DON'T THINK YOU CAN SURVIVE THAT WAY HERE.
IF THAT WAS BECAUSE I WAS *UNARMED*...
ARMED, *UN-ARMED*? SCREW ALL THAT.
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO TAKE ME IN.
IF WE WERE FIGHTING TO THE *DEATH*, MAN...
HMF. I'LL JUST *SHOW* YOU HOW IT'D BE.

?!


THAT SWORD...

WAYAN KURISHIGE ITTŌ-RYŪ. I WILL FIGHT YOU...
...THE "ONE-HUNDRED-MAN MURDERER."
TO BE CONTINUED...!